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*The Coal Miner: A Study of his Struggle to Secure Regulated Wages in the Hocking Valley.* By EARL A. SALIERS. (Bethlehem, Pa.: Bethlehem Printing Company. 1912. Pp. 65.)

Dr. Saliers has written a very brief sketch of the struggle of the coal miner in southeastern Ohio. The year, 1884, is held to mark the close of the era of unregulated competition in the coal fields, and the opening of the period of organization and of arbitration. The last third of the monograph is devoted to a consideration of the truck system of payment. Company stores are operated in the Hocking Valley at the present time; but they "probably do not receive more than one half or two thirds of the patronage they formerly commanded."

The Hocking Valley field offers an excellent opportunity for a valuable monograph showing how concentration of ownership and the development of harmonious relations with the coal roads affected the labor situation; but this sketch is altogether too brief. The manner in which outside competition and the competition between mines having coal seams of varying thickness have produced the well-known form of wage agreements between miners and operators, is too hastily presented; and the form of organization and the preamble of the constitution of the United Mine Workers is given an undue proportion of space.

FRANK T. CARLTON.

*Opportunities in School and Industry for Children of the Stockyards District.* By ERNEST L. TALBERT. (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. 1912. Pp. vi, 64. 28 cents.)

*Mercury Poisoning in the Industries of New York City and Vicinity.* By MRS. LINDON W. BATES, Chairman of Committee upon Dangerous and Unhealthy Industries. (New York: Women's Welfare Department of the National Civic Federation. Pp. 132.)

*Mine Accidents and their Prevention: For the Instruction of Mine Workers. Especially Adapted for the Teaching of English to Non-English Speaking People.* By J. H. DAGUE and S. J. PHILLIPS. (Scranton, Pa.: Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad Co. 1912. Pp. 69.)

These three monographs are indicative of the growing interest in the conservation of human resources. Dr. Talbert's monograph is the first of a series of investigations of the stockyards district

in the city of Chicago carried on under the direction of the University of Chicago settlement. The study "has the advantage of being focused on a limited area and of proceeding from a social settlement" which is in intimate contact with the people and activities of the district. The people studied are recent immigrants of various nationalities. Nearly all of the workers are employed in the stockyards; their work is unskilled and their wages low. Economic pressure, the ignorance of parents and the willingness of children are found to be the chief causes of the exodus from school soon after the age of fourteen years is reached. The typical child of the district leaves school while in the fifth or sixth grade; and the occupation secured, as a rule, leads only to a "blind-alley." The boy or girl usually changes jobs frequently, often with a considerable period of unemployment intervening. The haphazard or "pack-pedlar" methods of obtaining jobs are especially detrimental to impressionable children of fourteen to sixteen years of age.

As the result of this painstaking and valuable investigation, Dr. Talbert offers several suggestions which are worthy of careful consideration: (a) The minimum school age should be raised to sixteen years; (b) Provision should be made for continuation schools for the instruction of young workers; (c) The work of the day school should be reorganized so that its work will "center about occupational and concrete problems and processes"; (d) provision should be made in the public schools for vocational guidance.

Mrs. Bates' study deals chiefly with the manufacture of felt hats which is "the great mercurial industry." Mercury poisoning is easily curable in the early stages; "and the risk of contracting the disease can, in a large measure, be eliminated by simple, prophylactic measures, sanitation being a great aid." But, if not cured in the early stages, it soon causes a rapid decline in the earning power of the victim. A special investigator presents data for 122 cases of mercurial poisoning.

In conclusion, eleven definite recommendations are made for the purpose of regulating industries in which mercury is used. Eight of these relate to sanitary conditions; and regular medical inspection is demanded. The last two recommendations are of especial interest. "Compensation for disease should be a tax upon

the poison-using industry begetting it and profiting from it"; and "the industry should supply insurance for the men working in processes of such unhealthiness that insurance companies decline the risk." The monograph is a welcome addition to our inadequate literature upon industrial diseases.

The little book on mine accidents is an illustrated primer designed to serve a double purpose,—"to make all mine-workers more familiar with safe methods of mining hard coal" in order that the more common accidents may be avoided, and to teach the non-English speaking miner the rudiments of the English language. Two hundred pictures are used to illustrate safe and unsafe methods of mining. The book was prepared by two secretaries of the Y. M. C. A. of Scranton, Pennsylvania.

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*Albion College.*

*The Legal Position of Trade Unions.* By HENRY H. SCHLOESSER and W. SMITH CLARK. (London: P. S. King and Son. 1912. Pp. xxiv, 268. 10s. 6d.)

This volume is announced as an attempt to present in the utmost detail the position in which trade-unions stand in the law of the United Kingdom, though it is fair to say that these are the words of the publishers and not of the authors. The first chapter presents a survey of the historical development of trade-unions as marked by legislation, with references to some important decisions which were in large measure responsible for the enactment of the laws, and is followed by five chapters not very clearly demarcated: Definition of Trade-Unions and their Powers, Direct Interference with the Disposal of Labor and Capital, Restraint of Trade, Limitation of the Court's Jurisdiction, and Procedure. In an appendix are reproduced the statutes affecting trade-unions, regulations of the Secretary of State, forms and precedents, specimen rules of a registered trade-union, powers of trade-unions under the National Insurance Act of 1911, etc. The book is written in a readable style, is adequately indexed, with analytical side notes and ample citations.

The authors naturally use the Trade Union Act of 1871 as the dividing line, setting forth the effects of the earlier restrictive statutes, as well as of the more recent legislation legalizing picket-